DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

Re: Posicor®
Docket No. 97E-0462

The Honorable Q. Todd Dickinson
Deputy Assistant Commissioner for
Patent Policy and Projects
Office of the Assistant Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Crystal Park Building 2, Suite 919
Washington, DC 20231

APR 13 1999

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Dear Commissioner Dickinson:

This is in regard to the patent term extension application for U.S. Patent No. 4,808,605 filed by Hoffman-La Roche,Inc. under 35 U.S.C. § 156. The patent claims the human drug product Posicor® (mibefradil dihydrochloride), new drug application NDA 20-689.

In the August 4, 1998, issue of the Federal Register (63 Fed. Reg. 41582), the Food and Drug Administration published its determination of this product's regulatory review period, as required under 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(A). The notice provided that on or before February 1, 1999, 180 days after the publication of the determination, any interested person could file a petition with FDA under 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(B)(i) for a determination of whether the patent term extension applicant acted with due diligence during the regulatory review period.

The 180-day period for filing a due diligence petition pursuant to this notice has expired and FDA has received no such petition. Therefore, FDA considers the regulatory review period determination to be final.

Please let me know if we can provide further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald L. Wilson

Ronald L. Wilson, Director
Health Assessment Policy Staff
Office of Health Affairs

cc: George W. Johnstone
Hoffman-La Roche, Inc.
Patent Law Department
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Nutley, NJ 07110